

DIVORCE NEVER JUSTIFIED.

SEPARATION MAY BE, BUT NOT REMARRIAGE, SAYS DR. ADLER.

Admirates Forgiving the Erring One—Separation Only in "Impossible" Marriages—Story from Real Life to Show That Duty Urges Its Reward.

Arizona

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S. F. Ry.

Dr. Felix Adler, lecturing yesterday morning before the Society for Ethical Culture attacked absolute divorce from the point of view of the moral philosopher, declaring that divorce is never justified under any circumstances. As a remedy for "impossible" marriages he recommended separation, either permanent or temporary, but without permission to remarry.

"I'm going to ask you to face with me a grim problem," said Dr. Adler. "If I were a praying person I would pray first that the respect for the moral considerations involved would not make me hard and unfeeling toward the human suffering involved also, and, second, that the contemplation of this suffering would not make us one less strong. It is not so much for us to determine what the law on the statute books should be as to determine what should be the public attitude toward the law. There are many things of high moral training which a person of high moral training will permit himself."

One of the inherent difficulties of the marriage problem, Dr. Adler thinks, is that men do not choose their wives nor women their husbands for the qualities which make for permanent union. Beauty, that great factor in early love, fades; accomplishments are neglected as the years go on, and lose their power to hold; even moral goodness may fail. These are only inducements to enter the gate. Once a man or woman has entered, it closes.

"What are the obligations of marriage?" he asked. "To enhance the spiritual life of the world, to keep burning the flame of mentality, to encourage the modifying influence of one character on the other, and the consequent moral growth, to throw the benefits of all this into the lives of the offspring. Now, in the case of persons who marry, there is no guarantee that one person is so egotistical that he or she refuses to make modifications."

Still, Dr. Adler admitted, there are profound influences upon the philosophy of marriage, foods, women of fine and delicate nature, marry many. To show that even such marriages are not hopeless, Dr. Adler told a story which he vouches for as true. He was a scholar, she was a good affectionate mother, both congenitally bachelors, keepers of home and hearth. They grew somewhat weary of each other. Their evenings became a bore. There came into their circle a woman of rare gifts, who resided in the next door. She was an innocent friend, but both became involved more and more until the man had to face it.

"At first, the man said to himself, 'Why not stay friend? I am not married with this man who is my wife?' Then for he was a man of high honor, there arose certain primitive moral considerations. Said he, 'I've made this woman my wife. She is the mother of three, and my children. He is an innocent friend, but both became involved more and more until the man had to face it.'

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Said he, 'I've made this woman my wife. She is the mother of three, and my children.'

He was an innocent friend, but both became involved more and more until the man had to face it.

"Well, he was a gentleman, that was all, and he had his reward."

The sparker went on to the more extreme, when one person is a drunkard, a drudge, user, a moral degenerate, a fiend of cruelty, even a criminal—cases which cannot be cured.

And in this case, I say—separation by law continued. Separation may have many degrees, and in this respect our laws are not developed enough. Separation for a time is good even for those who are really wedded, but not the hope and safety of those who are not married.

It gives them a respite, lets them stand off and lose sight of minor considerations, and in the end it often brings them back especially if there are no children.

Or they may live over the same hill and, in some degree, continue to love one another?

It seems that separation as a remedy should, in every case, be a last resort.

There is no difference. Separation does not imply admission to remarriage.

The legal protection to an injured party may be just as great as an absolute divorce as a release from intolerable burdens is concerned. It would be just as good.

It gives grant permission to remarry to those who have already made a failure of marriage?

Dr. Adler denounced the opinion that a lifetime of misery is too great a price to pay for the removal of the human race, he said. In these excessive penalties. If a man makes a slip at the top of a cliff he pays for it. So try to prevent the mistake. Teach the young people the ethical ground rules, the importance of the family, the importance of the home.

It is not true that there may be incompatibility between parent and child. Why not propose divorce, too? Yet it is impossible for a really moral parent to do this, he said. Now the usual result of marriage is the placing of a natural tie. Once entered upon it is as binding as the relation between parent and child.

There remains the supreme crime against marriage, the only one recognized by the laws of the State of New York. Even for that I reject the idea of divorce with permission to remarry. For the guilty party, it is absurd. It means giving one man his pick of women to marry, permission to do it again. To the innocent, it should be unnecessary to grant it. I do not understand how a person of fine feeling, after passing through such experience, could wish to re-enter the same nest. There is a stigma to the innocent past from the date of marriage. That poor man or woman who has gone wrong is still your spouse. Though the pledge of honor has been violated on one side, it need not be on the other."

Dr. Adler admitted that these views do not agree with those expressed in earlier works.

"I am taking a step in advance," he said. "A change in the direction of rigidity."

BEGGED WITH "MUTE'S APPEAL"

"Arrows of Destiny" Heirs to Send Phelan to the Island.

William Phelan, 30 years old, in the Essex Market court yesterday, was committed to Blackwell's Island for six months for belligerence. His mother and sister, both were in court and tried to effect a discharge, but to no avail.

Phelan was arrested on Saturday in the Park Row Building, where he was discovered in a circular call. The Attorney General of New York, James J. Farley, was asking for money. He has been working on ferrys boats and in the big office buildings downtown for a number of weeks.

He was born in 1873, making 32 years.

His total value is due to the large products, the metal increase from \$66,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

The average per long ton at the port of New York is \$2.35 in 1902, to \$2.35 in 1903, to \$2.35 in 1904, to \$2.35 in 1905.

The average per short ton at the port of New York is \$1.24, as in 1902. The increase in coal output over combined increase of 2.12 percent.

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